FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 DECEMBER 1984

Israel

Coalition Crisis — Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has given Prime Minister Shim'on Peres another 2 days to resolve the coalition crisis, Jerusalem radio reported following a meeting between the two men on the evening of 18 December. The Likud ministers will meet on 20 December to decide whether to resign from the government, the radio added. In a related development, the secretary general of the National Religious Party (NRP) stated that the NRP is willing to renew the dialogue with SHAS in order to resolve the crisis, the radio noted. Prime Minister Peres told Jerusalem television that he favors SHAS' return to the government, adding that he is seeking a way to retain both SHAS and the NRP within the coalition, which should be as broad as possible.

Tel Aviv Explosion — Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced that a group of PLO "revolutionaries" was responsible for the 17 December hand grenade attack which injured three people in Tel Aviv, claiming that the target was a "Zionist military vehicle." However, responsibility for the attack was also claimed by the PFLP and Fatah dissidents in Damascus, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Lebanon

Security — Artillery exchanges continued near Beirut, causing further casualties in Christian areas, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A spokesman for the Pha'angist Lebanese Forces warned the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) against establishing artillery emplacements in West Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. PSP sources cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio accused the Lebanese Army of shelling Druze residential areas in the Mountain, but announced the PSP's readiness to implement the coastal road security plan at any time to be determined by the Military Council.

As for the south, the IDF arrested 21 people suspected of "terrorist" activity in another sweep of villages near the coastal road, Jerusalem radio noted.

Diplomacy, Comment — Talks in Damascus between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' focused on the UN role in the process of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, Damascus television reported. Jerusalem radio viewed Murphy's visit to Damascus as a mission for the salvation of the Al-Naqurah talks, which are unlikely to continue after Christmas barring a "miracle." Meanwhile, in a recent *HA'ARETZ* interview, Prime Minister Peres stressed that if the Al-Naqurah talks fail, Israel should unilaterally withdraw to the international border 6-9 months after making the decision, adding that he favors a full withdrawal with its attendant risks because "I do not like half measures."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq may have used its new Mirage F1 EQ5 aircraft to attack the Greek-owned ship *Aegis Cosmic* on 17 December because the raid would have been at the limit of the range of Iraq's Super Etendards, according to Gulf shipping sources cited by the *GULF DAILY NEWS*. The paper's sources discounted the ship's captain's theory that a submarine was responsible for the attack. As for Iraq's announcement of a successful air strike on a vessel south of Khark Island on 18 December, the sources said this has not been independently confirmed and no SOS messages have been received.

ICO Ministerial Conference

The 1000-GMT opening of the ICO ministerial conference in Sanaa was postponed, KUNA disclosed, citing sources who "indicated" that in a preliminary meeting there were heated arguments between the Syrian and Egyptian delegations over restoration of Egypt's ICO seat. The ICO countries were urged to expel Egypt from the conference in a statement issued by Iran's Majlis, Tehran radio reported. Although the time when the conference eventually opened was not specified, Sanaa radio carried an opening speech by YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih appealing for Arab unity.

Sudan

The authorities released former Ummah Party leader Sadiq al-Mahdi and a number of his supporters, according to SUNA.

Western Sahara

Polisario forces killed 19 Moroccan soldiers in operations from 13 to 15 December, according to an SDAR communique cited by Algiers radio.

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Najibollah Addresses Kabul NFF Leaders

LD161846 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Najibollah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and the head of the state information service, this afternoon met with the heads and deputy heads of the provincial, city, and district councils of Kabul of the National Fatherland Front [NFF] who had taken part in the 5th NFF Central Council plenum.

At the beginning, Najibollah expressed pleasure in meeting the elders, intellectuals, and ulema of the country who have come together in the NFF as representatives of the people in the country's provinces, cities, districts, and sub-districts.

Speaking with them, Najibollah described the hostile and anti-human actions of the imperialist circles headed by U.S. imperialism against our revolutionary country. He said: Imperialism, which has with the victory of the SOWR Revolution lost interest in revolutionary Afghanistan, is trying by all means to embark on aggressive, interfering, and savage actions against our popular revolution and create obstacles in the way of our revolution by terror, murder, and plunder through its agents.

However, they are unaware of the fact that our courageous people have chosen their way, which is the way of prosperity and progress of independent and free Afghanistan.

Najibollah added: We are sailing in the same boat, that is the boat of defending those men who have always suffered poverty and persecution and with this boat we want to sail toward the shores of their rescue and build a society where the blistered hands of the worker and a peasant with hungry stomach do not exist and an orphan does not live in streets and despair and every one enjoys all benefits of life in equality.

Speaking on the role of jergas in Afghanistan and the policy of the party and government concerning the tribes and clans, Najibollah added: One of our laudible traditions in the history of the country is tribal jergas through which our forefathers engaged in solving social problems.

You ought to, through such jergas in the Central Council of the NFF, improve and evolve these jergas which have democratic characters and create the organs of the people for the good and humane aims of the party and state and preserve traditional links with the tribes, and in this way foil the plans of the enemies among the tribes.

A BIA correspondent reports that at the end of Najibollah's talk, Sayed Mozafar Shah, head of the NFF city council of Herat Province; Mohammad Jan Sher, head of the provincial NFF council of the Konar Province; and Mohammad Miran Ghaibmal, head of the NFF council of the Mohamand Dara District, on behalf of the others, spoke and once again promised that they will not spare any effort and self sacrifice towards realizing the lofty aims of their revolutionary party and government for the prosperity and well-being of Afghanistan and will put into action the resolutions of the 5th NFF Central Council plenum.

Takhar Governor Recounts Security Operations

LD152354 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1235 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The PDPA regards as its immediate duty to secure the broad and active participation of the toilers and all progressive and democratic forces in the national, democratic, and anti-feudal transformations in the task of defending the homeland and the April Revolution. On the basis of this principle, the reporter of Radio Afghanistan has carried out a special interview with the esteemed governor of Takhar Province, [Abdol Majid Sekandari].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How do you assess the security situation in the region and relations of the local organs with villages and hamlets?

[Sekandari] The security situation is good in our province and it is getting better. As you can see yourself, at present the government's revolutionary sovereignty is in force in our city, and there is no worry about the daily life of the inhabitants of the city and districts beyond the Kowkcheh, such as (Khaja Ghar), Rostaq, Chah Ab, Yangi Qal'eh, and (Derqat) District. There is no worry in the sense that counterrevolutionaries' plunder and looting do not exist at present time as far as we know.

Regarding the restoration of security, it should be mentioned that the joint headquarters of our province have attained relatively good victories in 1363 [beginning 21 March 1984]. For example, during the first two quarters of the current year, we have liberated more than 21 villages from the domination of the counterrevolutionaries in accordance with the plan. At present all socio-economic activities are underway in these villages. For example, in the capital of Taloqan, Baghak was freed this year from the domination of the counterrevolutionaries with the cooperation of the inhabitants. Now there is a school, primary party organizations, and primary social organizations, and the land reform program is underway. Prior to the formation of security posts in this region, there was no life; however, after a short period, more than 100 families returned to their homes. The people voluntarily joined the ranks of our security forces. This shows that the people are really interested in the restoration of security. Villages in other districts were also liberated in the same way.

It should be mentioned that the liberation of most of the villages was a result of the cooperation of the inhabitants and by peaceful and understanding means. Of course, sometimes we have launched military operations. During the operations we have always tried to use propaganda in the region; even during the operations our mobile propaganda groups begin to have talks with the inhabitants. After the withdrawal of the forces from the region, the security of the region is maintained by the creation of revolution defense groups or self-defense groups in the region.

[Reporter] Well, esteemed Engineer Abdol Majid Sekandari, you have been appointed chairman of the headquarters in Takhar Province. Could you please give some information to the esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan about the operations launched in Takhar Province and about your successes?

[Sekandari] Thank you. During the first 6 months of this year and up to now a total of 160 small and large-scale operations have been organized by the provincial Armed Forces in Takhar Province. These operations have been organized to drive away the rebels from the security regions. In these operations, more than 55 rebel ringleaders were eliminated and a number of the counterrevolutionary elements killed.

During the current year two large-scale operations at the provincial level were carried out by the provincial Armed Forces composed of sarandoy units, 75 regiments, and operational units. One of these operations took place on 13 Jowza [2 June] in Rostaq District against the Hezb-e Eslami band led by Engineer Nabi. The second operation was launched recently on 5 Mezan [26 September] in Chah Ab District against the Bashir band. The outcome of these operations was really good. I emphasize them because the local forces of the province took part and the military units of other regions did not.

In the latter operation which was launched in Chah Ab District, our forces seized from the enemy 10 DSHK's, 4 recoilless guns, 1 ground-to-ground rocket, 12 intermediate rockets, 82 electronic ground-to-ground rockets, 5 heavy machineguns, 1 ZK-1, 3 mortars, 208 assorted light shells, 35 anti-tank mines, 120 anti-personnel mines, 2 communication units, more than 10,000 light ammunition, more than 18,000 DSHK ammunition, and around 12,000 ZK-1 shells. Moreover, 72 electronic ground-to-ground rockets, 120 anti- personnel mines, 35 anti-tank mines, 135 recoilless gun shells, 150 mortar shells, and 4 large hideouts of the counterrevolutionaries with foodstuff and clothing were all destroyed by the security forces.

Similarly, the operation carried out in Jowza [June] of the current year against the Nabi band also produced good results.

For example, in these operations we seized mortars, 10 Kalashnikovs, more than 70 assorted light weapons, 5 DSHK's, 9 intermediate rocket launchers, 1 ZK-1, 18 ground-to-ground missiles, 4 heavy and light machineguns, 3 U.S. communication units, 4 rocket launchers, 17 mortar shells, 92 anti-tanks mines, 100 anti-personnel mines, 6 boxes of DSHK shells, 10 boxes of ZK-1 ammunition, 7 DSHK viewfinders, 5 mortar viewfinders, 2 ordinary binoculars, a large quantity of explosives and gunpowder, 1 typewriter, 1 switchboard unit with 5 telephones, 1 battery charge unit, more than 10,000 meters of electric and telephone wire, 200 winter Pakistani uniforms, [word indistinct], shoes, 1 depot of medicine, 1600 ser [1 ser 7 kg] of flour, 1500 ser of sesame, 20,000 ser of wheat, 500 ser of [word indistinct], and 100 beds. [end recording]

BAKHTAR Notes Growing Membership in Trade Unions

LD190754 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0417 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Kabul, December 18, BAKHTAR: The membership of the trade unions of the DRA is expanding at a greater pace.

About 200 thousand persons are voluntarily organized now in the trade unions of the DRA.

The trade unions have altogether over 5,500 organisations working under over 30 city provincial councils.

The main objectives of the trade unions in Afghanistan are raising the levels of production, strengthening the national economy, raising the cultural level of workers and their living standards, defending the rights and interest of workers, safeguarding the gains of the April Revolution and building of a new and prosperous society.

The trade unions being the biggest social organisations in the country were established after the victory of the April Revolutionary, 1978.

To cite an example, over 3,90 [number as received] working people are members in 64 primary organisations of the trade unions in Helmand Province alone. About 500 persons have joined the trade unions of that province in the past eight months. As also, eight primary organisations of trade unions have recently been established in the province.

The trade unions of the Helmand Province take an active part in the development of literacy programmes, self-defence, and other social programmes. The field of activities of the trade unions in the DRA is constantly developing, depending upon the increasing demand for rendering additional services in the interest of the Afghan people.

Three New Ministers Sworn In by Ershad 19 Dec

BK190726 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Three new ministers were sworn in today. The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, administered the oath of office of the newly appointed ministers at a simple ceremony held at Bangabhavan [Presidency] this morning.

The new ministers are Major General Mahmudul Hasan, administrator Dhaka Municipal Corporation; Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, former member of parliament and lawyer; and Dr T.I.M. Fazle Rab Chowdhury, professor of Agriculture University, Mymensingh.

The function was attended by the deputy chief martial law administrators, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, ministers, and advisers to the president.

Ershad Urges Opposition To Seek People's Verdict

BK190353 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said that his government has been working relentlessly for the establishment of real democracy in the country. Addressing a huge gathering at (Putnitala) upazila [subdictrict] in Nowgong District today, the president said a number of steps have already been taken for peaceful transition to democracy. He has also announced the holding of parliament elections in the first part of April next.

Describing the people as the source of all powers, he urged the opposition political parties to go to them and earn their confidence and verdict in their favor for running the country in a democratic manner. Negative politics can never deliver goods, he added. He maintained that we can hardly afford to forget that our task is hard and problems are many, and said instead of choosing destructive means we all should work shoulder to shoulder to overcome these problems with our limited resources.

17 Parties Form Opposition Jatiya Oikya Front

BK171339 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Dec 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The leaders of 17 political parties including Khondokar Mustaque Ahmed of Democratic League have formed "Jatiya Oikya [National United] Front" with the objectives of restoring the politics of post-1975 Islamic values and a representative government through elections at the national level on the basis of suspended constitution.

The declaration of the Oikya Front has been signed by: Khondokar Mustaque Ahmed, Democratic League, Mr Shafiqur Rahman, Islamic Democratic League, Syed Manzurul Ahsan Nezam-e-Islam (Manzur), Mr Sharafat Hussain Choudhury, Bangladesh Republican Party, Nur Mohammed Kazi, Bangladesh People's League Mr A.S.M. Sulaiman, Krishak Sramik Party, Sheikh Shaukat Hussain Nilu, Progatishi Jatiyatabadi Dal, Maulana Abdul Matin, Labour Party, Mr Mohammed Delowar Hussain, Bangladesh Ulema Dal, Maulana Ruhul Amin, Tansimul Ulema, Maulana Shamsuddin Kashemi, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam, Bangladesh, Major (Rtd) Zainul Abedin Khan, Bangladesh Islami Andolon, Haji Mohammed Akil, Bangladesh Nezam-e-Islam Party (Akil), Maulana Mohammed Habibullah, Islami Sanghati Parishad, Maulana A.B.M. Ishaque, Bangladesh Ihsanul Muslemin, Sheikh Ashraf Hussain, Bangladesh Islamic Party, Principal Sirajul Huq Gora, Muslim Jatiyatabadi Dal.

The declaration of the front signed on Friday [7 December] was released to the Press on Sunday by Mr A.T.M. Wali Ashraf of Democratic League. The leaders of the front have given call to those who believe in establishing Islamic values, end of Martial Law, establishment of a representative government and believe in resisting aggression to join the front. The signatories said they signed the declaration of the Jatiya Oikya Front having faith in revival of the spirit of post-1975 change over and holding of national level elections on the basis of suspended constitution for the immediate end of Martial Law for defending the national independence and sovereignty and to resist effectively the aggressive forces.

The declaration said that the aggressive forces were more active in the absence of an elected representative government. The Talpatty was under Indian occupation, Dahagram and Angarpota were beseized [as published] and vast areas in the northern districts of the country have become desert following the withdrawal of water from Farakka. The declaration further said that the local agents of the aggressive forces were active in the country to make Bangladesh a vassal state taking the advantage of continuous Martial Law in the country. The declaration expressed resentment over showing Bangladesh as part of India in the election poster of Indian Prime Minister Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and shameless actions by the local agents of the aggressive forces following the assassination of Mrs Gandhi.

The declaration observed that following the continuous Martial Law and absence of an elected government in the country extreme frustration was prevailing in political economic and social arena. The front leaders held that the crisis could be overcome only through establishment of Islamic values which is the faith of the vast majority of the people. They said that the people of other religion will enjoy full religious freedom.

Delhi on Opposition Call for Strike 22, 23 Dec

BK180957 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 15-party opposition alliance has decided to go ahead with a nationwide strike scheduled for 22d and 23d of this month. In a statement, the alliance said President Ershad's plan for restoring democracy has bypassed the main demand, namely, lifting of martial law before any elections. General Ershad also did not respond to the trade union demand for wage increases, the statement added.

Opposition Rejects Martial Law Withdrawal Plan

HK181022 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 18 (AFP) — A major opposition alliance has rejected President Hussain Mohammed Ershad's plan for a phased withdrawal of martial law followed by a general election in April.

The 15-party alliance, led by the country's largest opposition party, the Bangladesh Awami League, said the plan was not clear and they were not convinced that the president was genuinely prepared to relinquish power.

The right-wing Jamat-e-Islami Party also rejected the plan yesterday, saying a free election was not guaranteed, and observers said the poll might be cancelled following the alliance's announcement.

The alliance, whose leaders had met for two days to discuss their response to the plan, yesterday said they would continue their political agitation against the 33-month-old military government.

They and the other main opposition grouping, the Seven-Party Alliance, brought Dhaka and other major cities to a halt in a general strike this month.

The president has already cancelled two general election plans after the opposition said they would not take part while martial law remained in force.

President Irshad's package, announced Saturday, includes a phased withdrawal of martial law through gradual abolition of military tribunals, relaxation of martial law regulations, and partial restoration of various civil rights.

An election would be held in the first half of April and the country would then be returned to civilian rule.

The 15-party alliance described the plan as "unclear and ambiguous" and questioned what the "political role of President Ershad" would be from now on.

Lieutenant-General Ershad Saturday promised to remove all cabinet ministers in the Janadal Party, which he created last year, by January 15.

He added that no member of his council of ministers would be allowed to run in the election.

The alliance said it was worried about what the president meant in a speech to the armed forces, also made on Saturday.

"The sacred duty of the armed forces which took over (running the country) on March 14, 1982, is yet to be fulfilled, and as honest and courageous soldiers we cannot stand aside without accomplishing our goals," he said.

IRNA Says Muslim Leader Rejects Ershad Proposals

LD172138 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Dhaka, Dec. 17 IRNA — Maulana Mohammad Hafezi Huzur, leader of Bangladesh Klilafat Movement said that the current ruling system in Bangladesh is unlawful so therefore, it has no right to make decisions determining the destiny of the nation of Bangladesh.

The statement was seen as a rejection of Bangladeshi President General Ershad's proposals to hold elections and lift martial law by the end of the current year.

Huzur who was talking with IRNA reporter here, added that General Ershad had so far shunned any topic concerning the future of Islam in the country and had only talked about exchanging power which was not at all a major issue.

Ex-President Gives Views on Political Scene

BK171402 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Former President and Democratic League chief Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed has said that the national elections must be held under the suspended Constitution, adding that the polls must take place free from Government influence. In an interview with *THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER* on Monday at his Aga Mashi Lane residence he asserted that Ministers belonging to any party should not take part in the election or canvass for any one.

Asked what would be his party's stand if Gen Ershad becomes a presidential candidate, he said that a Government servant whatever position he holds could not be a candidate. He said, "If anybody wants to be a presidential candidate he may join the Janadal, Democratic League or any party of his choice."

Replying to a question regarding the present political stalemate arising out of the conflict between the Government and the two major political alliances Khondokar Mushtaque said that it was an arranged game.

He alleged that President Ershad was rehabilitating the politics of Indo-Soviet axis pursued by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina and CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] of Moni Singh.

The former President said that Sheikh Hasina was meticulously following the policy to suit the purpose of her foreign mentors. Regarding Begum Khaleda Zia Khondokar Mushtaque said that she had no politics other than strengthening the hands of the Awami League and the Indo-Soviet axis.

Sarcastically Khondokar Mushtaque said the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] has not only missed the bus but they have boarded a wrong bus.

He, however, said that those who believed in the politics initiated after the August 1975 change over should unite and try to uphold the national independence and sovereignty.

Khondokar Mushtaque said that it was a matter of shame for Begum Zia to swallow an insult hurled on her by Hasina when both were speakers at a meeting of the Supreme Court Bar Association. Hasina, Khondokar Mushtaque said, pointing at Begum Zia said that all governments after the August 1975 were illegal.

When pointed out that Begum Zia could be his natural ally as both of them were exponents of post-75 politics, the Democratic League chief said that it was likely and, as such at the initial stage, there were talks between him and Khaleda Zia. But later on elements within BNP who were upholding a line akin to Awami League prevailed on her and compelled her to toe the present policy.

Khondokar Mushtaque felt that those who were determined to uphold the national independence and sovereignty and want withdrawal of Martial Law and formation of a properly elected Government should unite and fight the forces detrimental to the interest of the country.

Khondokar Mushtaque said that an elected government having a definite plan and policy could only solve national problems. No interim government has any right to touch subjects which might change fundamental issues like land reform, education system or judicial and administrative arrangements, he maintained.

Asked about his role in the August 1975 change-over Khondokar Mushtaque Ahmed said that as all other means to change the Government were closed, a group of Army officers staged a successful coup and I was taken by them to conduct the affairs of the state on my terms emphasising on 'my terms.' Elaborating he said, my terms were there would be a civilian government the Constitution would remain and the Parliament would not be dissolved, there would be no Martial Law Administrator and no Martial Law Court.

Khondokar Mushtaque said that during his time not a single bullet was fired nor a drop of blood was shed. When his attention was drawn to the killing of Sheikh Mujib, members of Sheikh's family and the killings of four Awami League leaders in the jail he said the first one was an action before he undertook the responsibility to run the state and the second incident happened when he was not in power as certain quarters tried to revert to the pre-August 75 position with the help of outside powers. Fortunately the vested quarters did not succeed in their design and the Sepoy-Janata [army and people] unitedly foiled the move on November 7, 1975. I handed over power to Justice Sayem who also followed my line and declared that the election would be held on the same day as was announced by me if not earlier.

Asked whether there was any special significance of the visit of the new U.S. Ambassador to his house the former President emphatically said, of course. The ambassador in the interest of his own country would meet politicians and discuss things of mutual interest he observed. The new U.S. Ambassador might have seen other political leaders also I believe said Khondokar Mushtaque.

Rajiv Comments on U.S. Study on Indira's Death

BK190330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has called upon the people to identify the elements within the country trying to undermine national integrity. All should unite to frustrate their attempts.

Addressing a public meeting in Allahabad yesterday, Mr Gandhi recalled that it was during the Janata Party regime when Jagjit Singh Chauhan [self-styled Khalistan president] was allowed to return to India and given a free hand to continue his secessionist activities. He criticized the opposition for their dual policy of opposing the Anandpur Saheb resolution [of Akalis] and forging alliance with the Akali Dal at the same time. Mr Gandhi said the youth should come forward to introduce a value-based clean politics in the country.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi also referred to a recent newspaper report on a U.S. study of the effect of Mrs Indira Gandhi's untimely death on the country and wondered: Where was the need for such a perspective study when she was hale and hearty? Besides, the timing of the study, which was completed 8 weeks before her assassination, is also very significant, Mr Gandhi added. The report had predicted political instability in the country in the event of the untimely death of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Meanwhile, according to a United States Information Service press release, the author of the study, Professor Robert Hardgrave, has denied that his book, *India Under Pressure*, was part of a plot against Mrs Gandhi's life. He is said to have said this in a telephonic interview with an American news agency.

Election Official on Assembly Polling Dates

BK181415 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The secretary to the Election Commission, Mr Ganesan, has said that there is no need to consult opposition parties in fixing dates for the assembly polls in nine states supposed to be held in March or April. He was replying to queries from newsmen in New Delhi today.

He said the dates will be fixed in consultation with the center and state governments to suit administrative convenience. Mr Ganesan also refuted the criticism for not holding the assembly elections simultaneously with the current Lok Sabha polls.

Mr Ganesan also denied that the assembly poll is being advanced to March or April to oblige a chief minister.

Bhopal Election To Be Held 3d Week in January

BK181341 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The Election Commission has decided to hold the polling in the Bhopal parliamentary constituency in the 3d week of next month. This was announced by the secretary to the commission, Dr Bhalla, in New Delhi today.

He told newsmen that the polling which was scheduled for the 27th of this month, had to be put off due to the recent gas tragedy there. The commission took the decision following the recommendations of the state government.

Reportage on Islamization Referendum Vote

Zia Ends Election Tour

BK181645 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan was created for the promotion of Islamic values and it will continue to promote them. He was addressing large gatherings at Abbatabad and Kabbal near Mingadra today, the concluding day of his 10-day countrywide tour. He gave a fervent call to the people to avoid petty differences and partisanship and turn Pakistan into a strong fortress of Islam through [word indistinct], brotherhood, and decency. He said for complete enforcement of Nizam-i-Islam [Islamic system] in Pakistan, it was incumbent upon every individual to be a practical Muslim. In this way a strong Islamic society could be established which would ensure the future progress of the country.

He said considerable work had been done during the past 7 and 1/2 years for the Islamization of the society with the cooperation of the people. The foundation for an Islamic society had been laid and stability was needed for further work in this regard. He said the stability of the country could be achieved only if the people had unflinching faith in the ideology of Pakistan and work for it.

Referring to the 1977 movement, the president said it was virtually a referendum for the enforcement of Nizam-i-Islam. He said the mandate of the people would enable him to continue and consolidate various measures to lay the foundation of an Islamic state. This would once and for all eliminate chance and uncertainties about the country's future. He said the main aim of his tour of the country is to elicit the opinion of the people about the future system of government. He said the government, the country's economy, and the educational system should be Islamic to ensure the stability and integrity of the country. If the people had confidence in him and his colleagues and approve the policies pursued during the last 7 and 1/2 years, then they should pave the way for the next 5 years.

The president said he wanted to Islamize the Constitution, and the amendments to be made in it would be based on the results of the referendum. He declared that his manifesto was the holy Koran, love of the holy prophet [peace be upon Him], and stability of Pakistan. The president said the rights of women, labor, and minorities would be protected at all costs. In his speech at Kabbal near Mingaora, the president announced that country courts were being established in Swat immediately.

Addresses Rawalpindi Rally

BK181614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the people of Pakistan will display the same spirit at the referendum tomorrow for the stability and integrity of the country as they did during the struggle for the creation of Pakistan. He was addressing a big rally in Rawalpindi this afternoon organized by the local councillors of the Rawalpindi district and industrial and business circles of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

The president said the enthusiasm witnessed among the people of (Potuhar) for tomorrow's referendum reflects their attachment to and love for Islam and Islamic values. He called upon the people to work hard, follow God's orders, and serve the nation sincerely for the establishment of a truly Islamic government and an Islamic socciety. He said during the past 7 and 1/2 years, people, especially women, from all walks of life — including workers, traders, farmers, lawyers, religious scholars, and theologians — have fully cooperated with the government to make its programs successful.

He said every individual whose name is listed in the electoral rolls will exercise his right to franchise at tomorrow's referendum. The requirement that identification cards be presented at the time of voting has been waived for the referendum only. He made it clear that production of identification cards will be essential for future elections and he hopes that the issuance of these cards to all people would be completed by that time. He said if the blessings of Almighty God are with us, and I and my colleagues are once again given the mandate to serve the nation, then we will continue to serve the nation and Islam sincerely.

Expresses Satisfaction With Turnout

BK191047 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] With only 1 and 1/2 hour left for the polling in the national referendum to come to an end, a substantial number of voters have already exercised their right of franchise throughout the length and breadth of the country. Our representatives reporting from various parts of the country say that polling became heavier as the day progressed, with both men and women vying with each other in recording their verdict on the continuance of the process of Islamization initiated by the present government.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq exercised his franchise at a polling station in Rawalpindi cantonment. A large number of voters present at the polling station greeted him with slogans of Islam zindabad [long live] and President Ziaul Haq zindabad.

Talking to newsmen, the president expressed satisfaction over the turnout of voters. He said reports so far received from various parts of the country spoke of a large turnout of voters in spite of the severity of winter. Expressing his confidence that the nation would, insha Allah [God willing] give a positive verdict, he said this would help in the strengthening of the country.

In reply to a question, he said he would chalk out the future program of action after the referendum. He reiterated that the elections would be completed by the 23d of March next year.

As already reported, polling in the referendum began sharply at 0800 all over the country. As the closing time for the polling approaches, there is more and more intense activity at the polling stations with keen voters, both men and women, trying to cast the vote before the deadline is over. The rule, however, provides that voters already inside the precincts of the polling stations by the deadline would be allowed to cast their votes even beyond the deadline.

Our Karachi representative reports that with brisk voting continuing in Karachi and other parts of the Sind in a peaceful and orderly manner, a party of newsmen made hops by helicopter to Hyderabad, Mirpur Khas, and Thatta, where they were shown polling in progress at over a dozen stations.

ID Card Order Lifted

BK181406 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, an order requiring all voters to show their identity cards for tomorrow's referendum has been lifted. The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN says the government took the decision in response to a growing demand from the public as most of them had no identity cards. The opposition says that the move has cleared the way for massive fraud at the polls, in which President Ziaul Haq seeks a mandate to bring in more Islamic administration.

Reports from Islamabad say that the announcement came as a surprise, as the head of the electoral committee, Justice S.A. Nusrat, told newsmen only yesterday that it is compulsory to produce the card. The opposition said government officials and military personnel are being forced to vote in their office to ensure that they do not boycott the poll.

Referendum Polling Begins

BK190528 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Polling for the historic referendum began throughout the country this morning. Polling stations are crowded with people and the voters are casting their votes in a very calm and quiet manner. People in villages and rural areas are proceeding toward polling stations. The referendum is being held to ascertain the people's views on implementation of the Islamic system in the country and a peaceful and orderly transfer of power to the elected representatives.

BBC Reports Low Turnout

BK191239 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[From Radio Newsreel program]

[Text] In Pakistan, voting has been going on for several hours in the referendum called by General Zia to seek approval for his plans to create what he calls an Islamic system. He says he will regard a yes vote as a mandate for him to remain president for another 5 years. The opposition parties, whose activities during the campaign were officially banned, called for the referendum to be boycotted, saying the general was exploiting Islam to perpetuate his rule. But their call for the boycott was itself declared illegal. Alex Brodie came on the line from Islamabad a short while ago:

[Begin Brodie recording] An overwhelming majority of the people voting were clearly voting yes as expected. But as the opposition is boycotting the referendum, the important factor is how many people voted. Reports from around the country suggest there has been a low turnout, from 5 or 10 percent in the Province of Sind, 10 percent in a (?sample) of polling stations in Northwest Frontier Province to 40 percent in parts of Punjab. Shortly before the poll was due to close, the government announced that they would be kept open for an extra hour. Breakdowns in the voting procedure are reported from several places where electoral rules were not observed. The electoral roll, according to many reports, has been ignored.

People not appearing in the electoral register were being allowed to vote. Voting slips were being handed out without proper identification. A sheet of documents described to me as a new electoral register was hand written. Some polling stations visited were orderly and appeared to be abiding by the rules. But everywhere polling stations were plastered with banners and stickers calling for a yes vote. The government had said canvassing for either side would not be allowed. [end recording]

Complaint Lodged on Pakistan Arming of Hijackers

BK181613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] India today lodged a complaint with the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] in Montreal against arming the hijackers of the Indian Airlines Boeing by Pakistan authorities at Lahore Airport on the 24th of August. In the complaint, India has provided evidence about handing over of a pistol and ammunition by Pakistan authorities to the hijackers and described it as an irresponsible and rephrensible act. The complaint quotes the report received from the West German Interpol confirming that the pistol given to the hijackers was supplied to the Pakistan authorities by a West German manufacturing company in 1975.

Giving details of the complaint, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today it was pointed out to the ICAO that arming of the hijackers with the firearms is an unlawful act, unprecedented on the part of any member state. India has asked the ICAO to take appropriate measures so that there is no recurrence of such a reprehensible act.

The spokesman said as soon as the pistol recovered from the hijackers was given to India by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, a reference was made to Interpol, as the pistol was found to be manufactured in West Germany. The fact that the pistol having been given to the hijackers by Pakistan had been immediately reported by passengers including some foreigners. [sentence as heard] This was later confirmed by the debriefing of the crew of the aircraft, as well as investigations conducted on the return of the hijackers. It may be recalled that the hijackers were repatriated by the UAE authorities. The Indian complaint referred to Pakistan's encouragement to and cooperation with the hijackers and said that it is grave violation of the Montreal, Hague, and Chicago conventions, as well as the objectives of the ICAO. Dangers posed to the lives of innocent passengers by Pakistan's action are obvious, the complaint said.

NEPAL

King Returns After State Visit to Thailand

BK181602 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A grand and warm welcome was accorded to Their Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah on their return home this afternoon after completing a state visit to Thailand.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene To Brief Cabinet on Ethnic Proposals

HK190850 Hong Kong AFP in English 0818 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Colombo, Dec 19 (AFP) — President Junius Jayewardene today is to brief his cabinet and parliamentary group on proposals aimed at easing the country's ethnic tensions, sources said.

The roposals are to give greater local autonomy through district and provincial councils and more representation to Tamils and other minority groups through a second legislative chamber.

Yesterday, Mr Jayewardene held informal talks with participants of the national roundtable conference seeking an end to the racial strife to see whether the government could make further adjustments to the proposals based on their views, informed sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Those who attended the informal talks included the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party, the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), representing largely plantation workers of Indian origin, and some Hindu and Moslem groups.

President Jayewardene said earlier he would seek popular approval for his proposals through a referendum or general election, if necessary.

Informed sources said he was determined to go ahead with his plans now in the shape of draft laws, even if they met with opposition from extremists on both sides.

"President Jayewardene is determined to carry the moderates with him. Most people are now fed up with the racial tensions," a political observer said today.

Mr Jayewardene's determination was underlined by his calling the ministers of national security, lands and land development, and education and employment to assist him at yesterday's talks, the source said.

Some of the key issues raised by the ethnic and religious minority delegations in the talks related to security and land policy, the source said. This was confirmed today by TULF leader Appapillai Amirthalingam.

The national roundtable conference, which links political parties and religious and ethnic groups, has met off and on this year and is to reconvene on Friday.

Some militants among Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority are waging a bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east, where most of the country's Tamils live.

All major parties and Moslem groups are opposed to the amalgamation of these two provinces as some consider this the first step towards secession, sources said.

While regional amalgamation, which Mr Jayewardene considers non-negotiable, remains the major stumbling block, there are also differences on the powers of the district and provincial councils, the sources said.

Tamils insist that there should be provincial police forces to ensure their security while land policy in their areas should be the subject of provincial councils. The specific positions of the different participants will be known on Friday when formal statements will be made on the proposals.

Athulathmudali Pledges Victory Over Terrorism

BK181204 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The practice of the Sinhala Buddhists is not to work with fear and suspicion. Our ancestors and the Mahasangha [religious leaders] protected the country, the race, and religion by acting bravely. The people in this country should have such determination with regard to the problem of terrorism.

The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, pledged to achieve victory by completely eliminating terrorism. He was addressing the final day of the 98th Mahapola [religious function] at the Udunowa Madhya Mahaviddayalaya [university] premises yesterday.

Terrorism was not limited only to our country. To control this, we should use weapons. Security forces may not achieve victory at a stretch. Occasionally, they had to face attacks. We should not fear because of such experiences. If King (Buddhgamono) had fear and suspicion, he would not have proceeded even a mile further from (Magampura). It is clear from the contributions flowing into the national defense fund that the people have no fear and suspicion in the present situation.

Mr Athulathmudali pointed out that Sri Lanka, which did not believe in weapons like many Third World countries, had to purchase them because of the present crisis. A large fund from the national wealth had to be diverted to protect the country and its unitary status.

While controlling terrorism through weapons, a political solution should also be found. When such solutions were presented, the national security minister said, we should clearly study and understand it.

Musavi: Economy Can Support Continued War

LD181631 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Mashhad, Dec. 18, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Tuesday visited Mashhad's "Razavi" University. Later in the day he talked with a group of provincial officials.

In the meeting with provincial officials in Mashhad, Musavi spoke on the current issues facing the country.

Speaking on the war, Musavi said the economy is stable enough to accomodate its continuation. He also noted that the country has no foreign debt and stands a forerunner in the Third World.

Earlier on the same day, the prime minister visited various parts of Razavi University, which specializes in traditional Islamic curriculum, modern languages and political sciences. It opened last October and now has 120 boarder students.

Speaking to a classroom of students at the university, Premier Musavi told them that they should consider it a great honour for which they should be thankful to God for having the privilege to pursue higher studies. He expressed the hope that the university would turn out educated and pious students who will serve the divine ideals of the Islamic Republic and revolution.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,945

LD181720 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one of their vehicles and three heavy machine guns were destroyed in the Arvand River front during the past 24 hours, the Joint Staff reported.

Enemy fire on Abadan Monday damaged five homes and shops, said Communique No 1945.

First exchanges in the southern fronts were heaviest in the Sharhani and Taliyeh regions, where more casualties and losses were inflicted on the Iraqi forces.

In the western fronts of Ilam and Bakhtaran, the Islamic Forces of Iran continued to defend their positions and brought enemy movements in the region under their total control.

In the northwestern fronts, artillery and heavy weapons fire persisted and the Iraqi forces suffered some losses and casualties. Also in the northwest, Iranian patrol units carried out successful operations against the enemy forces and returned safely to their bases, said the communique.

Attacks on Shipping Scored

GF181400 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 84

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] Brothers, the issue of navigation in the Persian Gulf has once again attracted the attention of international media following the Iraqi regime's air raids against international navigation in this region. Four times in less than 2 weeks, Iraqi aircraft equipped with advanced French Exocet missiles attacked a number of oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. A Cypriot oil tanker was hit by an Iraqi missile on 6 December. Another oil tanker, registered in the Bahamas, was attacked 9 December. Aircraft of the ruling regime in Iraq attacked a Greek oil tanker last Saturday. The same ship was attacked again yesterday while tugs were towing it to a Gulf port to repair damages inflicted by aircraft of the ruling regime in Iraq.

As is well known, the goal of this repeated aggression by the Iraqi rulers against international navigation in the Persian Gulf is to hinder the export of Iranian oil from Khark Island, so as to put pressure on the stand of the Islamic Republic on the imposed war and force it to accept a cease-fire condition that will allow the Saddamist regime in Iraq to remain in power. The continuation of this war has subjected this regime to violent shocks which have raised a lot of questions about its future in Iraq. The attacks against oil tankers in the Gulf was an unprecedented move created by the ruling regime in Iraq at the beginning of the current year as a result of its critical position in the war. The rulers of Iraq were encouraged to continue with this dangerous diversion with the advanced weapons extended to them by France and the Soviet Union.

Despite international concern which has reflected severe opposition to threats aimed at undermining the security of the Persian Gulf, especially the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, international arrogance has adopted indifferent attitudes toward the Iraqi rulers' repeated violation of international navigation in the Gulf. This is despite the fact that these countries once had threatened to intervene militarily in the Persian Gulf if the Strait of Hormuz was closed.

This contradictory attitude toward international navigation in the Gulf makes one wonder about the true stand of these countries. If they are actually concerned about the safety of navigation in the Gulf, why are they silent in the face of the continued violations by the Iraqi regime, especially since its aggression was once directed against ships belonging to countries considering themselves concerned about the security of the Gulf?

This fact, which has now become known to the public, has been known for a long time to the Islamic Republic, which will not remain silent for long toward this exposed conspiracy. It is able to retaliate decisively when necessary. The enemies of the Islamic revolution know this fact very well. Are they going to choose the road that will lead them to this end?

Khamene'i Meets With Air Force Commander

LD182210 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council here today received Air Force commander, Colonel Hooshang Seddiq.

During the meeting the Air Force commander reported to the president on the latest achievements in the campaign for self-sufficiency in technical affairs. He also informed the head of the

Supreme Defence Council of the complete combat readiness of the Air Force.

Velayati Interviewed on Foreign Relations

GF181217 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Dec 84 p 1

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister'Ali Akbar Velayati, in Tehran — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The Foreign Ministry has shown its political influence in the Third World. This was one of the highest goals of the revolution and strategic policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Considering that in today's world the majority of these countries are either directly or indirectly under the control of imperialism or under the influence of superpower policies — we can find very few countries in the Third World which this does not apply to — please describe the mechanism of the relationship between Third World countries and imperialism and also explain the relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the oppressed Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

[Answer] We had the largest contacts with the Third World after the revolution. The importance we attach to the unity of these countries is further proof of our policies. We have tried to increase our economic exchange with the Third World. Of course, there are some technological needs that we have to satisfy from countries with superior technologies. For example, if you are buying electric generators you have to make sure that they are the best. Unfortunately, some industrial equipment is not built in Third World countries. So if we import one or another industrial implement from countries other than the Third World, this does not mean that we are ignoring the Third World. We only import goods from countries other than the Third World when these countries do not produce goods of comparable quality or competitive prices.

[Question] You mention the issue of the appearance of a Third [World] power. With what mechanism and system can we manage to create this third power, and how can we improve and elevate our contacts with the Third World? You also talk about political contacts through trips by delegations. In your opinion, how important have such trips been and how has this influenced the network of contact between the Third World and the two other poles of power?

[Answer] What is certain is that when we refer to contacts with the Third World and a third world power formed from Third World countries — or to be more accurate, from Islamic countries — such a thing would not be possible without contacts. If we do not make contact with each other, the necessary empathy will not be formed.

If we do not form a foundation of deeper ties through our trips — which have the goal of strengthening ties with the Third World — then I ask you, what preliminary instrument is used for the work?

[Question] We stressed that such trips are necessary and important and only wanted to ask about the contacts and issues discussed.

[Answer] Yes, such trips are a small part of an issue, but without them the entire issue will be present only in one's mind.

[Question] You said that we satisfy our technological needs from countries with superior technologies. Is there a specific country which supplies these needs?

[Answer] We do not mean a specific country with a specific political system. We let the industrial and commercial sectors decide the issue by finding out what country has what sort of goods at what price. If we look at the issue economically, then aside from political issues and considerations, it is centered on the fact that public monies spent on the purchase of needed material for the country should be spent in a manner to achieve maximum benefit for the country. In other words, money should not be spent to buy low-quality goods.

The Foreign Ministry may step in due to political reasons and say that a certain matter is disadvantageous to the country. We must not solely seek the best quality and ignore all other aspects. In some cases the most important element is political considerations and ties with a certain country. Certainly, an increase in the volume of economic exchange with a country benefits our political ties. The question is whether we want to put political ties after economic benefits and have ties with countries that give us the most economic benefit? The answer is, certainly not.

Foreign relations involves both political and economic considerations. If you stick to one and ignore the other, you will have problems. Our aim is not to be after the best goods which may cause us to tilt to one direction. They may make us their prisoners through economic channels this way. We must be careful that our warehouses do not become full of the worthless goods of others, due to political considerations.

[Question] You mentioned our technological needs from Western countries.

[Answer] I did not say the West — industrial countries.

[Question] We will not argue. Let us say industrial countries. Since we know which countries are industrialized and are aware of their systems and attributes, why has the volume of our commerce increased, especially with Europe? It is very obvious that these industrialized European countries have imperialist systems and cannot be seperated from international imperialism. We consider them natural enemies of the revolution. In your opinion, what are the aims of such countries in welcoming and pursuing economic ties? Doubtless, the world enemy does not wish our independence or continuation. In addition, as you said, economic relationships are tied with political ones. However, Europe has more important goals in establishing economic and political ties with us.

[Answer] Are you questioning economic ties with European countries?

[Question] Yes, we are questioning the current volume.

[Answer] Yes. In this respect you should answer to the questions and needs of our officials in charge of our economy and industry.

If you are criticizing ties with a certain country or a certain group of countries, then you certainly have another group of countries in mind and want to say we should have no such contacts with such and such European countries. [sentence as published] Let us assume we accept this — that is, the entire government — then what would be your suggestion? Let us say I accept that the volume of our economic exchange with a certain West European country should not be what it is. Do you know of any place that would supply us with the same technological and commercial needs and improve our political position?

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, according to statistics published by the Ministry of Commerce, the majority of our imported goods are consumer goods.

[Answer] What goods?

[Question] We do not mean anything specific.

[Answer] No, say what you mean, since we want to solve the problem. If we know that you or any one of the noble Iranian people have any solution for political, commercial and industrial issues, and subsequent discussions reach a positive solution, then we accept it. We need your opinions and those of any caring, informed person in the country. Your opinion as a journalist who has knowledge of issues and is aware of them can clarify issues. So specify what consumer goods have been imported.

[Question] Electrical equipment, for example.

[Answer] Is a light bulb an example?

[Question] Yes.

[Answer] So, as an example, we import light bulbs from Western countries. What suggestion do you have about it?

[Question] We cannot offer a specific suggestion in this respect, but there is a certain state of ambiguity in our minds and maybe the minds of people, that without facilities our technological needs will not be satisfied. Because Europe does not put their total technology at our disposal, our needs will continue because the economic system we inherited continues unchanged.

[Answer] You say that consumer goods are imported, such as light bulbs. We conclude that if we continue to import light bulbs from Western Europe — and not every part of Western Europe — then we will not be building them ourselves. So you are not objecting to Western Europe. You are objecting to the principle of importing consumer goods. You may then note that there are other countries aside from the Western European ones that produce light bulbs and accuse us — that is, the Ministry of Commerce, for example — of bias in choosing Western Europe since African and Latin American countries also produce light bulbs!

[Question] With apologies, our argument is not why we are buying certain goods from Western Europe. The question is, considering the dependent economic system that we have, which is really a branch of capitalism connected to imperialism — for various reasons we have unfortunately been unable to change this and hope that, God willing, the second Majlis will eliminate these problems. Considering the situation, which is really a base for the enemy, would such a volume of exchange and its continuation with Europe not help enemy infiltration and continuation of the system we have inherited, and would it not deal blows to our reaching true independence?

[Answer] You and I work under the light of this bulb. Your recorder is electronic. We do not build these. Are you suggesting we should use what we can make right now and also advocate achieving self-sufficiency at the same time? You cannot attain self-sufficiency overnight. The West reached its present stage of industrial development after 3 centuries. Due to cruel, unpopular, and incapable governments in our country, we stayed backwards and now want to change this. Can we do this overnight? The Ministry of Commerce can stop importing light bulbs. Importing them is not a happy thing for the Ministry. Recorders are not luxury goods. So, such goods should be imported either by the Commerce Ministry, or we have to make them ourselves. We have no factory to do this right now, or they cannot produce enough to satisfy the demands of our people. So what should we do? We either have to produce enough to meet the demand or import to make up the difference. So you are obviously not advocating an end to imports and the pure pursuit of self-sufficiency.

Should such a condition prevail, there will be vacuums. Do you want our people deprived of their basic needs in such a situation? I am sure you do not. So as long as we have not reached self-sufficiency we must have imports. You could rephrase your question and ask whether we are planning programs for self-sufficiency to complement our imports. This is a fundamental issue. In our contracts we specify the import of technology.

[Question] The first part of this question has not been answered yet. What are the goals of Europe in establishing economic ties with us?

[Answer] The simplest way to answer this question is to tell you that Europe and any country wants to sell its goods. Europe has not come and carried out propaganda for the officials of the Islamic Republic, let us say, over the purchase of electricity generators. We need generators. To obtain them we went after investigating and bought them. This is different from these countries coming to us. This is the difference between the era before and after the revolution. Then the Americans forced the Shah to buy whatever they wanted while now our organizations purchase goods on the basis of their needs. Europe welcomes this. What country wouldn't?

[Question] Does helping the revolution and a system which naturally is the enemy of international imperialism fit European policies?

[Answer] This is not a simple matter. European governments are facing budget deficits, inflation, and a drop in the purchasing power of their currencies. Thus one of their main goals is to save their economy from the current undesireable situation. If these countries did not need to do this then they would certainly have had second thoughts about establishing economic ties with us. What you say is only true when we look at them as being totally

without the need to have economic ties with other countries and to sell their goods. The economic condition of European countries is very critical and close to a calamity. The reason our organizations buy their goods is not to save them but to satisfy our own needs.

In addition, we should not be considered an inactive element. It is our effort and thought in this respect that is the deciding factor in such ties. We are the ones who determine what goods are imported from where to satisfy the needs of our country. This is different from the time when the purchaser country was without power and subject to the will of powerful countries.

South Korea Urges Increase in Bilateral Trade

LD190335 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — The Republic of Korea has asked Iran to further facilitate issuing visas to Korean businessmen and to open a trade office in Seoul.

The proposal was made by the Deputy Commerce Minister of the Republic of Korea Kim Chol-su in a meeting with Iran's Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi Ja'fari Tuesday.

The Korean official said he was satisfied with his two days of talks with Iranian officials.

The Iranian minister said bilateral trade between the two countries was considerable and problems should be solved easily.

Iran's foreign trade policy, Ja'fari said, is based on neither East nor West and it trades with countries who respect this policy and offers it fair deals.

Insurgents Down Iraqi Helicopter in Kurdestan

GF181822 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Iraqi Muslim fighters have downed a Saddamist regime helicopter fitted with a machine gun in (Nahlah) in northern Iraq.

Reports from the area say that the helicopter was one of six fitted with machine guns which were combing (Horazan), (Gohana), and (Nalah) in the Iraqi Kurdestan area in search of Muslim fighters. The Muslim fighters engaged them and downed one.

Iraqi APC Destroyed

LD181807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] A Saddam Army APC in Deyhuk region came under attack by Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries. In the course of this attack which occurred on the 12th day of the current month [3 Dec] the APC was destroyed and all troops inside were either killed or wounded.

According to a Central News Unit report, following the successful operations carried out by the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries in that region, fresh military units of the Zionist Saddam regime began an operation, but were forced to retreat after suffering large losses and casualties. In the meantime, reports reaching us from northern Iraq note that a group of Muslim troops inhabiting Deyhuk, who compulsorily enlisted in the Army thanks to threats by the Saddamist regime, deserted en masse. Four were martyred while pursued by the army of the Zionist regime.

Afghan Revolutionaries Counter Soviet Attack

LD182217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The joint attack by USSR and government troops on (Surkaman) region in Laghman Province was foiled by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries. According to reports received from Afghanistan, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries succeeded in killing a large number of the joint USSR and government troops of Afghanistan and downed one of their fighter planes. Two military planes and one helicopter belonging to the occupying forces were damaged in these confrontations.

Attacks on Rebels Reported

LD182116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In order to prevent operations by Muslim revolutionaries against their positions in Kabul, news agencies report that the joint occupation and government forces resorted to opening a hail of fire on the city's environs; this coincided with the fifth anniversary of Afghanistan's military occupation by Soviet forces. According to a REUTER report, the thunder of long-range artillery during the past week could be heard nightly in Kabul. Throughout that period Soviet reconnaisance aircraft flew around Kabul in order to identify targets. Artillery attacks by the occupation forces on the outskirts of Kabul are taking place at a time when Afghan Muslim revolutionaries recently threatened to attack the positions and garrisons of the Soviet forces in Kabul.

French 'Militarist Policy' in Africa Criticized

GF181512 Tabriz International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, President Francois Mitterrand has traveled to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, to attend the 11th joint meeting of French and African leaders. In a statement to correspondents on 11 December, Mitterrand recalled the ratification of military agreements between France and a number of African countries, adding that France was prepared to intervene militarily in African states whenever necessary. In Burundi, Mitterrand also conferred with the leaders of a number of African countries. Political circles have said that their talks were related to the sale of French arms to these countries. Apart from this, a number of African leaders conferred with Mitterrand on the question of French military interventions and on French colonialist policy.

The deployment of French military units in Africa in line with French colonialist policy led to protests by the people of Africa and to economic deterioration in a number of African countries.

The Mitterrand government has made a great effort to safeguard French interests within the exploitationist policy pursued by international imperialism headed by the United States.

The efforts made by the French Government have helped realize the policies of the United States.

The French military intervention in Chad, the deployment of French troops in south Lebanon, the dispatch of French security forces to New Caledonia to crush the movement of the people for independence, and the military and economic support given to the Iraqi regime prove that Mitterrand's socialist government is pursuing a militarist policy.

Regardless of all this, however, the economic situation in France is worsening.

Pointing to France's deteriorating economic situation, economic and political analysts have said that the French socialist government intends to improve its economy by increasing arms sales to the Third World countries — particularly to countries in the Middle East. Through this, the French Government hopes to reduce its foreign debts.

Nevertheless, due to their poor economy, most of the countries that have been buying arms from France are now unable to do so. Not being able to pay for the arms it bought in the past, the Iraqi regime too has moved to limit its arms purchases from France. Thus, the French Government has been unsuccessful in that direction.

On the other hand, the French Government has placed billions of francs worth of arms at the disposal of the Iraqi Government. As for the aligned Arabs, although they continue to extend material support to Saddam Husayn, they are not able to meet the entire cost of the arms he buys. It will also be recalled that the former External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, in a statement he made last October, clearly argued that France should continue supporting the Iraqi regime until the loans given to it are paid back.

The French militarist policy directed against Africa and the preparedness to intervene in African countries militarily create the fear that the French socialist government will soon be confronted with a disadvantageous state of affairs — a situation in which the Iraqi regime, which is a buyer of French arms, will not be able to meet the cost of the French support given to it. If, however, the French regime terminates its [words indistinct].

Islamic Conference Stance on Camp David Viewed

GF190630 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The process of making the Camp David accords more acceptable on the Islamic level is taking place through the convocation of the ICO ministerial conference, which will be attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid for the first time since the severence of relations 5 years ago when the Egyptian regime signed the Camp David accords.

Before entering into the legislative discussion on Islam's stance toward the Camp David accords, we should state this fact: The basis upon which the ICO was established is Islam, and all Islamic countries are supposed to contribute through this organization toward finding a unified Islamic bloc to confront the Eastern and Western blocs that are hostile to Islam. The organization is supposed to adopt the ideology of Islamic unity and the means to ensure the achievement of this unity and to eliminate opposing powers that have a negative effect on unity. Within these goals, the ICO used to affirm its Islamic identity, but if it abandons this identity under any pressure or influence, it will lose the reasons for its existence. This is what we fear regarding the organization's stance toward the Camp David issue and capitulatory solutions.

The ICO is facing a difficult test with the issue of Egypt's return. This is a test of existence. Thus, it should either exist through its Islamic identity and its basic principles to achieve the unity of the Islamic nation, or cease to exist through the adoption of some non-Islamic stances, such as recognition of the Camp David accords. This would rob the ICO of whatever is left of its Islamic identity.

Briefs

New Envoy To Greece — Mr Ahmad 'Ajjalluyan was appointed ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Athens, as proposed by the minister of foreign affairs and approved by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. [Text] [*Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 84 LD*]

Revolution Headquarters Name Change — The name of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters has been changed to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, following the appointment of new officials by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [Text] [*Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 84 LD*]